

March 4th, 1903.—The President in the Chair.

Mr. Harry Eltringham, of Eastgarth, Westoe, South Shields, was elected a Fellow.

Colonel Bingham sent for exhibition specimens of *Diptera* and two *Aculeates* from Sikhim, showing in the banding of the wings and other characteristics a singularly beautiful case of mimicry. The Rev. F. D. Morice drew attention to the way in which the fly imitated with its tibia the tarsus of the bee. Mr. A. J. Chitty, specimens of *Atomaria rhenana*, Kr., taken by him out of some flood rubbish found near Lancing, probably the same locality where the beetle was discovered formerly by Dr. Sharp. He also exhibited a *Plinus*, apparently new to Britain, found in a granary in Holborn in 1893, where it had been probably introduced. Mr. W. J. Kaye, species of *Lepidoptera* from British Guiana, forming a Müllerian association in which all but one were day-flying moths, the exception being an Erycinid butterfly, *Esthemopsis sericina*. The moths, belonging to three families, included *Syntomidæ*, *Agryta micilia*, and *Euagra cælestina*; *Hypsidæ*, *Iostola divisa*; *Geometridæ* (?), *Pseudarbessa decorata*.

Mr. C. O. Waterhouse read "Notes on the nests of Bees of the Genus *Trigona*;" Mr. G. A. Rothney communicated a paper on "The *Aculeate Hymenoptera* of Barrackpore, Bengal," and "Descriptions of eighteen new species of *Larridæ* and *Apidæ*, from Barrackpore," by Peter Cameron; and Colonel Charles Swinhoe communicated a paper "On the *Aganidæ* in the British Museum with descriptions of some new species."—H. ROWLAND-BROWN, *Hon. Sec.*

SOME NEW *COLEOPTERA* FROM THE CHATHAM ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND.

BY D. SHARP, M.A., M.B., F.R.S., &c.

The following descriptions are drawn from some specimens sent me to name from the Bremen Museum für Natur-Kunde. I found there were several new species of *Cilibe* among them, and as their description involved a comparison with the forms of the genus found on the mainland of New Zealand, I have described two or three species from there. They have been compared with Mr. Bates' types, now in the British Museum, of this difficult genus. It is a great pity that we do not know more of the Fauna of the Islands off New Zealand. From an article in the last Vol. of the New Zealand Institute we must fear it is only too probable that the preinictive Fauna and Flora are in process of rapid diminution if not of complete extirpation. Mr. Cockayne says, *Tr. New Zealand Inst.*, xxxiv, p. 245, "as I write, Mr. W. Jacobs sends me word that the previously inaccessible forest lying under the precipitous cliffs of the South Coast has been opened up to stock, and in consequence the last remnant of the Chatham Island Forest will soon be a thing of the past."

Two of the new species are from Stephen's Island in Cook's Strait. If the resources of New Zealand do not permit the scientific authorities of the Colony to make an exploration of the mainland, they might surely take in hand the investigation of some of these outlying islands while they are still in a fairly natural state. That important results would be obtained by a thorough exploration is rendered more than probable by the discoveries Professor Schauinsland has made in his flying visit.

I have to thank the Professor for allowing me to retain specimens of the species I have described, and for presenting me with an example of the rare Longicorn *Ochrocydus huttoni*, Pasc., which he found at French Pass.

CILIBE MAJOR, *sp. nov.*

Major, subdepressa, nigra, opaca, densissime punctata, elytris ecostatis.
Long. 24—26 mm.

Allied to *C. opacula*, Bates, readily distinguished by the much larger size. The thorax is very broad, very slightly sinuate at the sides behind, and with the base only very slightly prolonged backwards at the hind angles. In other respects the two are extremely similar. The punctuation in *C. major* is quite as dense, and there is no trace of any smoothness on the disc of the thorax.

C. opacula itself consists of several varieties or races about the distinctness of which Mr. Bates entertained some doubt. The above distinctions are from the form Mr. Bates considered to be true *opacula*. The form to which *C. major* is nearest is from Christchurch, N. Z., and is about 18 mm. long. It has the thorax shaped like that of *C. major*, i. e. considerably straighter across the base than it is in typical *C. opacula*.

Stephen's Island, Cook's Strait. Prof. Schauinsland.

CILIBE SCHAUINSLANDI, *sp. nov.*

Piceo-nigra, subdepressa, omnium densissime punctata, peropaca; elytris obsolete subsulcatis.
Long. 14½—16 mm.

Closely allied to *C. opacula* and *C. otagoensis*, but with denser and finer sculpture of the upper surface than in any other species of the genus, and therefore duller. The thorax is distinctly narrower in front, so that the prominent front angles or lobes are rather narrower than they are in the allies; the sides are very little sinuate; the base on each side slopes backwards, so that the hind angles are distinctly acute; the punctuation on the disc is distinctly coarser and more scanty, but the surface is not at all shining. The sides of the elytra are but little explanate behind, but are more distinctly so in front, they have no costation at the base, but the faint longitudinal grooving of the surface is more distinct than it is in any of the varieties I have seen of *C. otagoensis*. The structure of the front tibiae is much the same as that of *C. opacula*.

Stephen's Island.

Prof. Schauinsland found three individuals of this species, but one of them has unfortunately lost the head and thorax.

CILIBE SUBCOSTATA, sp. nov.

Nigra vel picca, minus depressa, fortiter sculpturata, opaca, elytris evidenter subsulcatis. Long. $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

This is distinguished from all the other species by the peculiar sculpture of the elytra, which however is only an exaggeration of what we find in some other forms. The front angles of the thorax are much produced and the sides are much explanate; their margins a little sinuate, the hind angles much produced backwards and markedly acute; the punctuation at the sides is very dense, on the disc it is scanty, but the surface is not in the least shining. The elytra are rather short, and have a vague costation, the very slightly elevated ribs are separated by coarser punctures; this sculpture strongly sets off, and makes evident, the ribs.

Chatham Island.

Prof. Schauinsland found a small series of this species. It is nearest allied to *C. pascoei*, Bates, of Pitts Island, a species which was also met with there by the German traveller. *C. pascoei*, is however, rather more elongate and less convex in form, and with the sculpture of the elytra different, there being merely traces of the longitudinal ribs. Prof. Schauinsland's specimens are intensely black, being considerably darker in colour than Mr. Bates' type. I have dissected the sexes of *C. subcostata* and do not find any external marks to distinguish them.

CILIBE TARSALIS, sp. nov.

Lata, nigerrima, subdepressa, densissime punctata, opaca, pedibus crassioribus, tarsis subtus densius spongiosis, anticorum articulo primo leviter dilatato. Long. 20 mm., lat. 10 mm.

I have seen only one specimen of this species. I received it a few years ago from Mr. Suter. It is labelled in the handwriting of Capt. Thos. Broun "*Cilibe opacula*," Bates, Albury. Though very similar to that species, it differs in a well-marked manner by the structure of the feet, and though this may be peculiar to the male it is sufficient to differentiate the form from *C. opacula*. It is a little broader in proportion to the length, the thorax is rather more transverse and less narrowed in front and the head markedly broader. The punctuation is much the same as it is in *C. opacula*. The tibiae are slightly shorter and thicker, and they have only an indistinct external pre-apical angle; the thickening of the basal joint of the front feet though slight is perfectly definite, and I can find nothing to correspond to it in any other species.

Albury, New Zealand.

I have a specimen given to me by the late C. M. Wakefield, who found it in the Peel Forest in March, 1874. It was submitted by me

many years ago to Mr. Bates, who returned it with the remark "appears distinct from typical *opacula* and *otagoensis*." This individual, I believe, is a female of *C. tarsalis*. The tarsal character is absent, but in other respects it agrees with the type, except that the legs are a little thinner, and the thorax not quite so broad.

If the two individuals are really, as I suppose, one species, it may be distinguished from *opacula* by the slightly greater width in proportion to the length; by the eye being a little larger in the longitudinal axis, and by the structure of the male feet.

I do not know where Albury is. Peel Forest is "in Canterbury," but I do not know more than this.

CILIBE VELOX, sp. nov.

Angusta, picca, dense punctata, opaca, antennis pedibusque elongatis; elytris subsulcatis, minus fortiter punctatis; tibiis anterioribus dente externa pre-apicali discreta.

Long. 12½, *lat.* 5½ mm.

A very distinct species of the *C. otagoensis* group, which I describe from a single male. The strong denticulation of the front tibiæ reminds one of *C. tibialis*, from which in some other respects the species is very different. The appendages are unusually long for the size of the insect, but probably in the female this will not be conspicuous, as the legs are usually longer in the male sex of *Cilibe*. Less convex than *C. tibialis*, and with the sculpture very much more effaced, the upper surface not in the least shining, and the thorax almost completely destitute of basal impressions though formed as in *C. tibialis*; there is no groove along the sides, and the hind angles are acute, as in that species. The elytra are narrow, more attenuate and acuminate behind than they are in *C. tibialis*, with only narrow lateral groove, with the surface distinctly subsulcate, and the punctuation fine, subeffaced.

Christchurch, New Zealand.

CILIBE LEWISIANA, sp. nov.

Suboblonga, parum convexa, piceo-nigra, haud omnino opaca, prothorace dorso subtiliter punctato et nitido; elytris densissime punctatis, subopacis.

Long. 14½ mm.

This can only be compared with *C. otagoensis*, to which it is similar in form. *C. lewisiana* is however smaller and is easily distinguished by the comparatively smooth pronotum, which is less densely and more finely punctured. The front angles of the thorax are not much produced; the sides are nearly straight behind, scarcely at all narrowed or sinuate, but the base on each side slopes back a little to the angle, which is therefore slightly acute. The explanation of the sides of the elytra is but slight, their sculpture is very dense, but not so excessively crowded as it is in *C. otagoensis*, and the surface is not so completely dull.

I have seen eighteen examples of this species, taken by Mr. J. H.

Lewis, of the Public Works Office, after whom I have named it. These specimens do not vary much, and I think the species is distinct, though it has no salient character.

Otago, Wedderburn. J. H. Lewis.

CILIBE MERIDIONALIS, sp. nov.

Angusta, subtiliter sculpturata, opaca, picco-rufa, antennis, palpis pedibusque dilute rufis.
 Long. 11, lat. viv. 5 mm.

This small form comes nearest to *C. huttoni*, from which it is distinguished by its shape, being narrower in front, so that the thorax is less transverse, and by the more effaced sculpture of the elytra, which, too, have only very indistinct traces of grooves or costæ. The front angles of the thorax are but little produced; the sides are a little sinuate, and the hind angles acute; the punctation is fine, not dense, a good deal more scanty on the disc, where the surface is perceptibly shining. The elytra are but little explanate at the margins, and are remarkable on account of their comparatively fine sculpture, the punctures being quite small and shallow; the interstices are larger than the punctures, and they bear some excessively minute shining slightly raised asperities or granules. The legs are rather long, the outer angle of the front tibia not in the least spinose. The sculpture of the ventral segments is quite fine, but less effaced than it is in *C. huttoni*. The metasternum in the middle in front is slight convex or protuberant, and is punctate there.

Waikawa, in the extreme south of New Zealand. Prof. Schauinsland, two specimens.

I have specimens of a form allied to this, found at Manawatu, in the South of the North Island. They appear to me to be nearer to *C. huttoni* than to *C. meridionalis*, and I treat them at present as a variety of the Otago species, *C. huttoni*.

ZORION OPACUM, sp. nov.

Fusco-testaceum, supra submetallico-nitens, sericeo-subopacum; antennis pedibusque testaceis, his femoribus basi excepta rufo-obscuris, illis fusco-annulatis; elytro singulo ante medium fascia pallida transversa marginem lateralem fere attingente.
 Long. 4—5 mm.

This comes very near to *Z. minutum*, but is distinguished by the peculiar pallid suffused colour, and the silky dullness of the surface. The thorax, instead of being polished, is dull and covered with a slight sculpture—a sort of minute wrinkling of the surface. The elytra are rather longer than in the other species.

Chatham Islands. Prof. Schauinsland, three specimens.

The British Museum collection includes a specimen of this species said to be from Otago. This locality I think very doubtful.

XYLOTOLES SCHAUINSLANDI, sp. nov.

Fusco-rufus, supra viridescens, nitidus, antennis pedibusque rufis; elytris tricostatis, costis ad apicem fere ductis, interstitiis irregulariter interruptim costatis.
 Long. 10 mm.

This species comes very naturally between *X. traversi* and *X. costatus*. It is not half the size of the latter; but is a little larger than *X. traversi*, more elongate, with the sculpture more developed and the costation continued near to the tip. Of the forms found on the mainland it is perhaps nearest to *X. rugicollis*, but it is very different in colour and the elytra are singly rounded at the tip. The thorax is elongate and subcylindric and bears two transverse channels, otherwise it is very indistinctly sculptured. The scutellum is covered with pallid pubescence. The elytra have each an elevated rib running along the suture, and outside this three others, the space between bearing much coarse irregular sculpture; the third costæ is itself divided behind the shoulder so as to fork somewhat, and form in fact two costæ. The ventral segments have each a conspicuous spot of yellow pubescence at the side.

The four specimens found by Prof. Schauinsland differ but little, and the British Museum collection has two others.

Chatham Islands. Prof. Schauinsland.

XYLOTOLES ABNORMALIS, sp. nov.

Minutus, brevis, testaceus, pallidus, tomentosus; thorace fortiter transverso; corporis latere longitudinaliter fuscescente. Long. 5 mm.

This minute *Lamiid* looks like a *Hybolasius*, but as it is flightless I place it in *Xylotoles* where it will come near to *X. Huttoni*. The front of the head is very low, and the mouth much inflexed. The antennæ have the third and fourth joints very elongate, the fourth a little the shorter but quite twice as long as the fifth; from this to the end each is slightly shorter than its predecessor. The thorax is scarcely so long as broad, infusate at the sides and across the middle. The after body is short, the elytra covered with minute tomentum which allows, however, numerous small pits to be seen; they are pallid, but at each side there is a large irregular dark patch which beyond the middle approaches near to the suture. Under-surface infusate. Femora short and thick, yellow, with dark marks.

Chatham Islands. Prof. Schauinsland, two specimens.

ALDONUS CHATHAMENSIS, sp. nov.

Ferrugineus vel piceus, setis erectis numerosis superne vestitus, haud squamosus, rude sculpturatus; subtus setosus, inter setas squamis perpauca munitus. Long., 7½–13 mm.

Distinguished from *A. hylobioides* and all the other species ascribed to the genus by the absence of scales from the upper surface. The rostrum is longer than it is in *A. hylobioides*; it bears fine erect hairs, but, in consequence of the absence of scales its coarse sculpture can be distinctly seen. Thorax very rough, with tubercular sculpture, with fine, short, erect hairs, and with still shorter, very slightly curved, thicker, more pallid setæ, which represent the squamosity that is so remarkable in the other species. The elytra are rather deeply striate, and the striæ have very large punctures, separated only by short intervals one from the other.

Chatham Islands. Prof. Schauinsland.

Cambridge: February, 1903.